

SITUATION REPORT NO. 37
INCIDENT NO. 99-009
DATE: October 15, 1999 TIME: 10:00 a.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Storms and flooding – Above normal soil moisture content throughout North Dakota, compounded by seven years of flooding and additional precipitation, has resulted in overland, river and flash flooding and ground movement (landslides and mudslides). Excessive high winds associated with storm and tornado activity have contributed to ongoing problems faced by North Dakotans.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: On October 15, Devils Lake measured 1,446.62 feet at Creel Bay.
4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.
5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The Volunteer Agency coordinator for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has indicated there are three long-term recovery groups working to assist disaster victims.
6. MAJOR ACTIONS: Officials for state of North Dakota have been providing technical assistance to their counterparts in North Carolina. That state was recently declared a disaster area after Hurricane Floyd caused widespread damages. The General Counsel of the N.D. Attorney General's Office traveled to North Carolina to provide technical assistance in establishing a One Stop-Shop designed to prevent contractor fraud. A One Stop-Shop was established during the 1997 flood by staff of the Attorney General's Office, N.D. Secretary of State's Office, the N.D. National Guard, Job Service North Dakota and the N.D. Workers Compensation Bureau. Staff for North Dakota Emergency Management also assisted North Carolina officials to include providing information related to donations management and to the administration of the Individual and Family Grant Program. The N.D. League of Cities Executive Director also provided technical advice in donations management. The Emergency Management Operations Officer is monitoring Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) conference calls regarding recent hurricane activity in the eastern United States.

Representatives of the N.D. National Guard, N.D. Department of Transportation, N.D. Division of Community Services, N.D. State Water Commission, N.D. Department of Health, North Dakota Emergency Management and FEMA participated in a town meeting October 13 in Churchs Ferry to explain acquisition options and discuss continuing flood problems with officials, citizens and other interested parties of Churchs Ferry. Also attending were representatives from Ramsey County and representatives of the state's Congressional delegation.

Officials for the N.D. Department of Agriculture have announced that funding is available for landowners in 14 selected watersheds, including the Devils Lake Basin, through the North Dakota Waterbank Program. Up to \$100,000 can be designated for property in the Devils Lake Basin watershed. The goal of the funding is to control non-point source pollution, which agriculture officials say can positively impact water quality in Devils Lake.

On October 14, the Regional Director of FEMA announced a deadline extension of November 30 for property owners near Devils Lake to purchase flood insurance and to be eligible for the Closed Basin Lake Endorsement. The prior deadline was October 31, 1999. The National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Closed Basin Lake Endorsement enables insured property owners to collect on their flood insurance policy if the lake floodwaters imminently threaten their structures. The extended purchase deadline applies to special flood-prone areas in the following areas: Benson, Nelson, Ramsey and Towner Counties; the cities of Churchs Ferry, Devils Lake and Minnewaukan; the townships of Coulee and Creel; and the Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe Reservation.

Owners of businesses throughout North Dakota dependent on farmers and ranchers are eligible for low-interest Economic Injury Disaster Loans, officials for the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) recently announced. Because of recent disaster conditions, many producers have experienced crop losses and have been unable to purchase goods and services at normal levels. Businesses that are dependent upon these producers may have experienced decreased sales, reduced gross profit margins, increased accounts receivable or difficulty in moving inventories at normal levels. Farmers and ranchers are not eligible for this loan program but may be eligible for disaster assistance through other federal agencies.

In response to increased needs among the residents of Churchs Ferry and Minnewaukan, officials for the Lake Region Human Service Center will assign a crisis counselor to each community. In addition, one counselor will work with residents of the Spirit Lake Sioux Tribe and the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. The N.D. Department of Human Services Crisis Counseling officials reported that a Tribal Crisis Counseling Coordinator will be hired by Lutheran Rural Response, a provider for counseling services. The coordinator will oversee the Crisis Counseling Program on the Standing Rock Sioux and Fort Berthold Reservations and will work closely with Lake Region Human Service Center to ensure services are implemented and maintained on the Spirit Lake and Turtle Mountain reservations. Lutheran Rural Response will use a three-pronged approach to providing crisis-counseling services. The three components include Couples Retreats, Rural Outreach and Neighbor-to-Neighbor. The Couples Retreat will address enhanced coping skills and stress relief within a group

setting. The Rural Outreach is designed to provide prevention information, holistic care and education, and Neighbor-to-Neighbor will establish support networks within communities. Peer counselors visited 177 disaster victims during the week of October 3-9.

Program Updates for FEMA-1279-DR-ND

The state Public Assistance Program has paid \$18.4 million in initial project worksheets to eligible applicants. The program has received a total of 293 applications.

North Dakota Job Service has received 6,798 claims for Disaster Unemployment Assistance. As of October 12, \$10,663,779 in benefits has been paid to farmers, ranchers, farm workers, migrant workers and other self-employed individuals who lost income because of the disaster.

A total of 12,321 North Dakotans registered for assistance through FEMA teleregistration center. Of those, 9,773 have applied for Disaster Housing Assistance. To date, FEMA has paid \$16,767,249 in benefits under the Disaster Housing Program. Of that amount, \$6,748,166 has been designated for expanded habitability measures designed to mitigate future flood damages. Those measures include interior drain systems, sump pumps, gutters and downspouts, basement fills and land sloping work.

The Individual and Family Grant Program, administered by North Dakota Emergency Management, has received 6,283 applications and approved \$1,041,654.73 in benefits. Of that amount, \$165,000 has been designated for mitigation measures to include installation of dry wells designed to alleviate ground water pressure and construction of mechanical rooms for homes where basement fills have occurred.

SBA has sent 10,077 applications to disaster victims and has administered \$8,833,000 in loans as of October 12. Of that amount, \$6,408,000, or 72 percent, has been designated for expanded habitability measures.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Assistance has been provided, as reported.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: FEMA, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Red Cross, consulting engineers and members of the N.D. Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).
9. OTHER: Situation Reports published by the N.D. Division of Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet Home page. The address is: <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director